



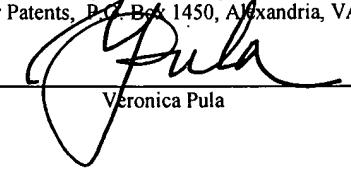
# IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor:	STARR et al.	Examiner:	Rutao Wu
Application No.:	10/045,503	Art Unit:	3628
Filed:	November 7, 2001	Docket No.:	ARIBP051
Title:	METHOD FOR SELECTING AN OPTIMAL BALANCE BETWEEN DIRECT COST AND A NUMBER OF SUPPLIERS		

## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in a prepaid envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

*Sept 8*, 2008.



Veronica Pula

## AMENDMENT E

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed June 6, 2008. The following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted.